



**GOVERNOR'S DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**Texas Department of Public Safety**

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*For immediate release:*

**Hurricane Awareness Week:  
Wind Speeds Can Make Tremendous Damage Difference**

AUSTIN – Hurricanes are extremely unpredictable. They can greatly increase in strength in only a few hours, making a tremendous difference in the amount of damage they can do. The Governor's Division of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service have designated May 16-22, 2004, as Hurricane Awareness Week. Hurricane season officially begins June 1 and continues through November 30.

Storm categories, wind strength and related damage include:

**Category 1:** 74 to 95 mph – Minimal damage to building structures. Damage primarily occurs to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees. Some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage.

**Category 2:** 96 to 110 mph – Moderate damage. Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes and piers. Small boats in unprotected anchorages break moorings.

**Category 3:** 111 to 130 mph – Extensive damage to small residences, utility buildings and other smaller structures, with a minor amount of curtain wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Larger structures damaged by floating debris.

**Category 4:** 131 to 155 mph – Extreme damage, including more extensive wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach area. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore.

**Category 5:** Over 155 mph – Catastrophic damage, including complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet above sea level.



For more information, contact Mary Lenz or William Ayres at (512) 424-2138 or visit DEM's Web site: [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem).